THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5717. *Saturday, April* 18, 1840. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer*.

At the various Theatres of the metropolis, nought is to be heard but the note of preparation for the Easter novelties. At Covent Garden, the new grand Fairy Extravaganza is, we are told, on a scale of great splendor, and is of that species of entertainment which told so well at the Olympic, under the management of Mad. Vestris. Messrs. Planché and Dance, who have proved themselves such clever *opticians*, are the *spectacle* makers on this occasion, and the piece which is founded on the well known nursery tale, "*The Sleeping Beauty of the Wood,*" is to be produced under the immediate superintendance of Mr. Oscar Byrne. The Haymarket will produce no novelty on Easter Monday, but with Macready as *Hamlet*, and Power as *Morgan Rattler*, what else can be desired? We are gratified to learn, however, that a new Drama, in two acts, and a Farce by Mr. Bernard, are in a forward course of preparation. The Adelphi will no doubt fully bear out its character for splendor and effect. Messrs. Peake and Buckstone's new Drama, *The Devil in London*, is said to be highly effective, and complete in every department; while Mr. Stirling produces a grand Spectacle to be called *The Serpent of the Nile*, founded on the loves of Antony and Cleopatra, in which eighty auxiliary ladies will be introduced, and for which the most splendid Egyptian scenery is preparing. The Olympic introduces to its patrons "A Royal Commission from Paris," in which Miss Ayres, from the National Theatre New York, will make her first appearance. Various pieces are getting ready, and among them a new Drama by Peake, called *What Shall I Do Next?* A Farce, to be entitled *Bamboozling*, and Mark Lemon's Tragedy, *The Avenger*, which is being considerably altered and curtailed to fit it for representation here. Mr. Butler will of course sustain his original character *Walder*.

Miss Ellen Tree's engagement at Manchester commenced on Saturday evening last, when this charming actress sustained the character of *Ginevra*, in Leigh Hunt's *Legend of Florence*.

Miss Kelly intends to open her Theatre in the course of this month, and is actively engaged in forming a sufficient *corps dramatique*. Among the ladies and gentleman whose services she has already secured are:—Messrs. W. Bennett, Compton, Allen, Ray, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Franks, &c. &c. We heartily wish her speculation may prove successful.

The late illustrious theatrical manager, Mr. Richardson, that defunct Thespis of modern days, was once honored by a *bespeak*. The play selected by the beadle's wife, or whatever the great lady patroness of the evening might be, was *The School for Scandal*.

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Richardson highly pleased at having the production of so *legitimate* a Drama, determined to give every possible effect to its representation. Accordingly in the grand discovery scene, at the time the screen was thrown down, discovering the frail *Lady Teazle*, her ladyship's features were illumined by the glare of a large pan of red fire, lighted by the hands of Richardson, while the stage-manager furiously beat a Chinese gong.

The *King*, in *The Jealous Bridegroom*, was the only character ever performed by Otway; the *Ghost*, in *Hamlet*, the only part in all his plays ever played by Shakspeare, and Nat. Lee, in acting *Duncan*, in *Macbeth*, was ruined as an actor.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town :—

Monday, stroll'd to Madame TUSSAUD'S elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st., Portman Sq.—Just added to their unrivalled collection, the splendid full length figures of Her Majesty the Queen, in her Windsor uniform, and Prince Albert in his military costume, also the group of John Knox, reproving Mary Queen of Scots, consisting of Mary, Elizabeth, Henry VIII, Luther, Calvin, and Knox, in magnificent costumes.

Tuesday, I am to be found at the ROYAL DIORAMA, Regent's Park, admiring the two splendid Paintings by Le Chevalier Bouton, representing *The Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in Westminster Abbey*, and the *Interior of the Church of Santa Croce*, at Florence, with all the effect of light and shade, from noon till midnight. This Exhibition is always crowded with fashionables.

Wednesday, pop into the COSMORAMA, 209, Regent Street, to view the new and splendid views now exhibiting—quite delighted. Much amused with the astonishing feats of *The Industrious Fleas*, which are also daily to be seen here.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS'S Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Thursday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see the Royal Glass Working Exhibition, paid but sixpence for admittance, and a specimen given to the value. Highly amused by seeing the art of glass blowing, spining working and modelling, horses, dogs, stags, birds, &c,

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare,

On the same day, paid a delightful visit to *The Typorama*, Quadrant, Regent Street, a large and accurate modelled view of *The Underlcliff of the Isle of White*, constructed by L. L. B. Ibbotson, sq.

Afterwards called at Emmett's, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute—also his much improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impairad to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

Went to visit some country cousins, found them at BLAKE'S Tavern, King William Street, West Strand, quite surprised at the excellence of their fare, and cheapness of their beds, wines, spirits, and accommodation. On a Saturday evening there is a highly respectable convivial meeting held here, which commences at 9 o'clock.

"Why are my eyes like Balfe's Opera of *The Maid of Artois?*" "Because they've got the *Light of Other Days* in them!" through trying the efficacy of GRIMSTONE'S Herbacious Eye Snuff—a 2s. 4d. & 1s. 3d. Canister restored my visual organs—quite a miracle—left off my spectacles.—Bought at 39, Broad-st, Bloomsbury—have a care to the inventor's signature—and that it is patronized by the Royal Family and authorized by her Majesty's Treasury on each canister.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

HER

Majesty's *Theare.*

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